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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is the first sorority founded by African-American women; it began on the campus of Howard University in 1908 under the guiding principles of sisterhood, scholarship, and service; and

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WHEREAS, The organization currently has more than 265,000 members and more than 970 chapters across the globe; and

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WHEREAS, The Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority grew out of the Delta Phi Eta Club at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the purpose of fostering a friendlier relationship among students; and

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WHEREAS, Through the guidance of Alpha Kappa Alpha Founder Beulah Elizabeth Burke and Incorporator Nellie Quander, Gamma Chapter was chartered on February 12, 1914 as the third chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha; and

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WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha was the first sorority for African-American women at the University of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The 8 charter members of Gamma Chapter were Emma Ballinger, Selma Beck, Frances Ellis, Clara Vesta Lewis, Louise Lewis, Ivorine McAllister, Edith Stevens and Helen Stevens; and

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1 WHEREAS, Gamma Chapter was a trailblazer in the expansion
2 of Alpha Kappa Alpha nationwide; and

3 WHEREAS, "Gamma Girls" have shown strong leadership in
4 service and scholarship both during and beyond their
5 undergraduate years; and

6 WHEREAS, Notable members of the organization include the
7 first African-American female University of Illinois Bronze
8 Tablet Scholar, the first African-American woman to be crowned
9 homecoming queen at a Big Ten school, an Alpha Kappa Alpha
10 International Corresponding Secretary, and 5 regional
11 directors; and

12 WHEREAS, Gamma Chapter played a pivotal role in the early
13 enrollment and housing of African-American women at the
14 University of Illinois; and

15 WHEREAS, Gamma House, which has served as a residence for
16 both sorority sisters and non-members alike, was instrumental
17 in recruiting and retaining African-American women at the
18 university; and

19 WHEREAS, Members of Gamma Chapter have gone on to become
20 educators, authors, lawyers, physicians, legislators, and a

1 plethora of other successful occupations; and

2 WHEREAS, Lovingly known as "Glamorous Gamma," the chapter
3 set the tone for student activism and future organizations
4 focused on women of color; and

5 WHEREAS, 100 years later, the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa
6 Alpha Sorority remains the longest-serving organization for
7 African-American women at the University of Illinois, the
8 State's flagship public institution of higher learning;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we celebrate the women
12 and legacy of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
13 Incorporated in commemoration of their centennial anniversary,
14 and deem February 12, 2014 as "Gamma Day" in the State of
15 Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority as
18 a symbol of our esteem and respect.